THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the report received from the Indian Bureau of Mines, which is the regulatory body for enforcing the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder, no case of violation of the laid-down norms by the State Governments for grant of mining leases and permission for extraction of iron ore across the country has come to notice.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Export of mineral resources

223. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Taskforce appointed by the Planning Commission has recommended the opening of our mineral resources for exports;

(b) if so, whether it would any way affect industrialization of the country; and

(c) whether Government are considering to have a re-look into the whole issue of National Mineral Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) A High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission was constituted to review the National Mineral Policy, 1993, and suggest measures to improve the flow of private investment and introduction of state-of-the-art technology in exploration and mining in India. Exports of minerals in India continue to be guided by EXIM policy notified by the Government. However, the HLC took up export of iron ore as one of the issues, not specifically included in the Terms of Reference, whose resolution was considered as crucial for stimulating investment and technology flows into the mining sector. The National Mineral Policy is under consideration of the Central Government.

Gold deposits in Orissa

224. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold deposits have been discovered recently in Orissa by the Geological Survey of India and the Geology Department of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the extent of deposits, their commercial vaibility and by when mining thereof is likely to begin, if commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Neither Geological Survey of India (GSI) nor Directorate of Geology, Orissa have discovered any gold deposits recently in Orissa.

(b) Question does, not arise.

Mining projects in Andhra Pradesh

225. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any projects of mining in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;